(b) what are the circle-wise details in his regard for the last year; and

(c) what are the details of the work done by Government circle-wise, for bringing about the improvements during the years 1991-92 and 1992-93?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) The improvement brought about by Government in the matter of field services and extending facilities to subscribers are as follows:

(i) Rehabilitation of outdoor plant and subscribers fitting.

(ii) Replacement of old worn-out exchange equipments.

(iii) Introduction of more reliable and efficient technologies like electronic switching equipments; push button telephones; jelly filled cables; ducting of cables; PCM; optical fibre and microwave systems for trunk services;

(iv) Government have adopted a policy in January 1991 to provide telephone facility progressively to all Panchayat Villages by 31st March, 1995 subject to availability of resources as a first step towards the objective of covering all the villages of the country with telephone facility by 1997. This facility is being provided mainly through radio media with lesser maintenance efforts and more reliable performance.

(b) and (c) The details are given in Annexure. [*See* Appendix CLXVIII Annexure No. 16]

Scholarships granted by DOT

854. DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total number and amount of scholarships granted during the last three years by the Department of Telecommunications to students going abroad for studies in telecommunications;

(b) whether such students within the stipulated period have returned home afer their studies;

(c) what is the mechanism by which Government recover its money from those students who do not return home; and

(d) what is the programmes for such students who return home after the study?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Sir, the Department of Telecommunications has no such scheme under which scholarships are granted to students for study abroad.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Does not arise.

Telephone connections given in Bihar

855. SHRI GAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total number of telephone connections given during the year 1992-93 in Bihar and what are the places where new telephone exchanges are installed; and

(b) what is the number of telephone connections which are to be given during the year 1993-94 and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) The total number of telephone connections given during the year 1992-93 in Bihar is 34389.

The details of places where new telephone exchanges are installed during 1992-93 in Bihar is shown in the Statement (*See* below)

(b) The number of telephone connections proposed to be given in Bihar during the year 1993-94 is 27000.

Statement

List of Places where new telephone exchanges have been installed in Bihar during 1992-93.

1. Bahadurpur
2. Pipra
3. Nehra
4. Barhechnagar
5. Patel Nagar
6. Keredari
7. Narainpur
8. Simri
9. Chaprakhurd
10. Sahebpur Kamal
11. Jale
12. Gandey
13. Ramdiri
14. Katiu
15. Jamsi
16. Tandwa
17. Jamuhar
18. Valmikinagar
19. Surha
20. Babhangama
21. Bhalpattee
22. Maraiya
23. Garhani
24. Sandesh
25. Akhgaon
26. Karaikela
27. Baraun
28. Goh
29. Bakudih
30. Dariapur
31. Poiwan
32. Baidyanathpur
33. Champanagar
34. Tulsia
35. Mau Bhandar
36. Prataptand
37. Mandu
38. Satgama
39. Simara
40. Purkhopattee
41. Ramna
42. Kera
43. Kandra
44. Kapasia
45. Akhorigola
46. Lesliganj
47. Sabour
48. Karjapattee
49. Bharwara
50. Tamuriya
51. Pasraha
52. Chanho
53. Ratu
54. Boreya
55. Tenughat
56. Simra Bazar
57. Shankar Imamganj
58. Markacho
59. Daru
60. Giddi
61. Nawanagar
62. Gidha
63. Khutta Bazar
64. Chainpur
65. Karma
66. Bhadya
67. Paraiya
68. Bithosarif
69. Haspura
70. Govindpur
71. Amba
72. Gwalpura
73. Bhapatia
74. Nauhatta

75. Haripur
76. Dhabauli
77. Balughat
78. Nawodih
79. Topchachi
80. Patam
81. Khiriban
82. Jamalpur
83. Mojharia
84. Dumri
85. Kalyanpur
86. Daudpur
87. Bheldi
88. Pachrukhi
89. Dighwa Dubauli
90. Murhu
91. Khaswagarh
92. Baraamda
93. Biharspong
94. Alka
95. Badam
96. Aura
97. Maheshmunda
98. Deori
99. Pandrakh
100. Giriak
101. Gonaha
102. Dayal chowk
103. Dulhin Bazar
104. Rani
105. Kapan
106. Hayaghat
107. Chatauna
108. Lohta
109. Phulparas
110. Andhrathari
111. Rahika
112. Pindaruch
113. Keoti
114. Sonki
115. Panchobh
116. Paghari
117. Alauli
118. Raipurchor
119. Tilouthu
120. Kargahar
121. Jiradai

Capacity of telephone exchange in Tamil Nadu

856. SHRI S. AUSTIN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of telephone exchanges functioning in Tamil Nadu, District-wise;

(b) what is the capacity of each of these exchanges;

(c) whether Government propose to increase thier capacity; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

Handing over of domestic airmail cargo to private air-taxis

857. DR. SANJAYA SINH: Will Minister of COMMUNICATONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of Posts have any proposal under their consideration to hand over a portion of their domestic airmail cargo to private air-taxis; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) (a) and (b) The Department is constantly exploring ways and means to speed up circulation of mail and to enhance the cost effectiveness of its mail operations by various methods including possible utilisation of private airlines for mail transportation as well wherever there are distinct advan-